

Hq 83d Inf Div
Office of the AG of S, G-3
APO 83, U.S. Army
1 February 1945

319,1401 (c)

SUBJECT: Operations of the Division, 1-31 January 1945.

TO: Commanding General, 35d Infantry Division, APO 83, U.S. Army.

1. In compliance with verbal instructions, the following report on the operations of the Division for the period 1-31 January 1945 is submitted.

2. The following units were attached to the Division during the period:

RCT 290 (Detchd 2 Jan)
290th Inf Regt
896th FA Bn (105 How)
Btry B, 440th AAA Bn (AW)
Co B, 750th Tk Bn
1st Plat, Co B, 275th Engr Bn
Co B, 275th Med Bn
774th Tk Bn
772d TD Bn (T) (Detchd 1 Jan)
453d AAA Bn (AW)
629th TD Bn (SP) (Atchd 1 Jan; Detchd 30 Jan)
Co C, 87th Cml Bn (Detchd 25 Jan)
Co B, 87th Cml Bn (Atchd 2 Jan; Detchd 25 Jan)

a. Supporting Troops:

294th Engr Bn (1 Jan only)
291st Engr (C) Bn (From 2 Jan to 3 Jan)
46th Engr (C) Bn (From 4 Jan to 9 Jan; and from 17 Jan to 20 Jan)
237th Engr (C) Bn (from 10 Jan to 20 Jan)
18th FA Gp (From 10 Jan to 20 Jan)
606th FA Bn (155 How)
138th FA Bn (155 How)
991st FA Bn (155 Gun) (SP)

b. Dispositions of troops at close of period are shown in Item Number 107, G-3 Journal, 24 January 1945.

3. For daily record of operations, see Inclosure 1 (attached).

Map Ref: FRANCE - BELGIUM, 1/50,000. 3SGS 4040, Sheets 80, 91, 92, 106.

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1 January 1945

Operations Memorandum Number 142, Headquarters VII Corps, confirming oral orders issued by the Commanding General, VII Corps, was received on this date (See Item 17, G-3 Journal, 1 January 1945). This memorandum ordered the Division to assume responsibility of the 3d Armored Division sector at 1200, 31 December 1945, continue the defense, and maintain contact with the 75th Infantry Division on the left.

The 83d Division on the first day of January had assumed the responsibility of the 3d Armored Division sector at 1200, 31 December, and was continuing the defense of the sector. The following units were attached to the Division: Regimental Combat Team 290 (75th Infantry Division), 774th Tank Battalion, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (Self-propelled), 453d Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (AW), and Company C, 87th Chemical Battalion.

Regimental Combat Team 290 having been attached 1200, 31 December, to the Division held positions, strengthened defenses, and sent patrols to the South.

The 329th Infantry moved from vicinity of (P4000) and closed into assembly area vicinity FAGNOUL (K502015) at 1900.

Regimental Combat Team 330 remained in VII Corps reserve until 1100 at which time the combat team was attached to the 3d Armored Division. All attachments which had formed the combat team reverted to control of 83d Division at 1200.

The 331st Infantry remained in defensive positions approximately two thousand yards behind the front lines of the 290th Infantry along the road from HOTTON (P3888) to EREZNE (P4390). The defensive positions were organized with the 3d Battalion on the right, the 2d Battalion in the center, and the 1st Battalion on the left. Defenses were improved during the day by laying mines and tactical wire.

Division Artillery fired over seventy missions during the day. At 0600 the 772d Tank Destroyer Battalion (Towed) passed in control of the XVIII Corps. The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) was attached to the Division at the same time.

The 774th Tank Battalion moved into a new position vicinity PETIT-HUN (P3695). Company C of the 308th Engineer Battalion assisted in the laying and recording of mine fields in the 331st Infantry sector; the Battalion in Division Reserve sanded roads and devoted time to maintenance of equipment and general rehabilitation.

The reinforcements which were received on 28 and 29 December reached the squads of the 329th and 330th Infantry and thereby increasing the combat efficiency of the Division.

As a result of operations, the Division maintained the defense of its zone and made plans for moving the Division into the zone of the 75th Infantry Division in preparation for a coordinated attack to be launched by the VII Corps.

At 2300 the Division issued a Fragmentary Order coordinating the movement of the Division into the assembly areas P475975, K540050, K485050, and K460010.

2 January 1945

The Division received Field Order Number 14, Headquarters, VII Corps, 2 January (See Item 90, G-3 Journal, 2 January 1945) ordering the Division to attack 0830, 3 January, in close support of and following the 3d Armored Division and to eliminate all pockets of resistance within its zone of action. The Division on this date continued to move to the assembly areas as designated by Fragmentary Order issued on 1 January.

Regimental Combat Team 290 (75th Infantry Division) was detached from the Division at 1200.

The 329th Infantry was organized into a regimental Combat Team consisting of 322d Field Artillery Battalion; 324th Field Artillery Battalion; Company A, Platoon of Company D, and Reconnaissance Platoon, 774th Tank Battalion; Company C with Reconnaissance Platoon, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled); Company G, 87th Chemical Battalion; Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion; Company A, 308th Medical Battalion; and 429th Quartermaster Truck Company. The Regimental Command Post was located at (K500010) with the Battalions assembled vicinity (P400980), (P530990), and (K495010).

The 330th Infantry, attached to the 3d Armored Division, as of 1100, 1 January, closed its Command Post at HAVELANGE (K0323) and opened at FERRIERS (K486002) at 1530.

The 331st Infantry was also organized into a regimental combat Team consisting of Company B, 774th Tank Battalion; Company C with Reconnaissance Platoon, 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled); Company C, 87th Chemical Battalion; Company C, 308th Engineer Battalion; Company G, 308th Medical Battalion; and 3403d Quartermaster Truck Company. Movement of the combat team began at 1100 and by 1900 all elements except Company B, 774th Tank Battalion, had closed into new area (P445960), (P500980), and (P470990). The regimental command post closed (P396923) and opened (P485976) at 1600.

Division Artillery Command Post closed (P396923) and opened (P485976) at 1600.

The 308th Engineer Battalion completed movement of all its units and opened Battalion Command Post at 0930, vicinity (P440015). Work continued on sanding roads throughout the Division sector. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, in Division Reserve, moved to new location vicinity CHERALLE (K523007), closing in at 1230.

The Division was relieved of responsibility of its zone by the 84th Infantry Division at 1200, 2 January. Concentration of the combat elements of the Division minus 330th Infantry and 774th Tank Battalion was completed in area (P475975), (K540050), (K485050), and (K460010) at 2100, preparatory to attack on 3 January. Division Command Post closed BARVAUX (P405971) and opened IZIER (K470005) at 1200.

3 January 1945

At 2130, 2 January, the Division issued Field Order Number 43 (See Item 121, G-3 Journal, 3 January 1945) ordering RGT 329 and RGT 331 to attack on Division order closely following the 3d Armored Division and to eliminate all pockets of resistance within its zone of action.

The 3d Armored Division began its attack at 0830, 3 January, to seize REGNE (P6185) moving rapidly to the vicinity of VANN (656767), bypassing enemy resistance to assist in the blocking of roads in the vicinity of CHERAIN and VANN, thence attacking South from this location to assist the 2d Armored Division in seizing and securing of HOUFFALIZE. The 3d Armored Division advanced during the day against stubborn resistance and cleared the towns of FLORET (P592932) and MALEMBRE (P562889).

G-3, VII Corps, notified the Commanding General at 1431 that it would be necessary for elements of the 83d Infantry Division to relieve the 504th Parachute Infantry (82d Airborne Division) attached to the 75th Infantry Division. The 329th Infantry was ordered by the Commanding General to affect the relief of the 504th Parachute Infantry immediately. Contacts and reconnaissance were made and at 1700 the relief began.

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Regimental Combat Team 329 moved its Command Post to (P573960), closing in at 2000. The 2d Battalion began movement at 1630 to new area vicinity (P555918) and the 3d Battalion started at 1700 for vicinity of (P585937), both battalions had detrucked by 2115. At 2200 the 1st and 3d Battalions completed relief of the 3d Battalion and the reserve battalion, 504 Parachute Infantry, along a line extending North-East from (P568923) to (P594943) with the 3d Battalion on the left.

The 330th Infantry continued to be attached to the 3d Armored Division. The Regimental Command Post opened in WERBOMONT (P543000) at 1500, after moving from FERRIERS (K486022).

The 331st Regimental Combat Team remained in assembly areas previously occupied while reconnaissance was conducted of area designated for attack and other preparations were made. The Command Post remained at (P483981).

Artillery units fired one hundred and ten missions in the course of the day, mostly interdiction and harassing fires. Due to poor visibility throughout the period, the Division Artillery was not able to register. The 774th Tank Battalion established a Battalion Command Post at IZIER (K475004) and the Battalion, less attachments to the two Regimental Combat Teams, assembled in FERRIERS (K486024) closing in at 1800. Company A, with a Platoon of Company D and the Reconnaissance Platoon, all attached to Regimental Combat Team 329, moved into new area vicinity FAYE (P508981), all units closing at 1600. Company B, attached to Regimental Combat Team 331, moved into the 331 area (P462967) at 1545.

308th Engineer Battalion units conducted road reconnaissance and distributed gravel along roads in Division sector.

4 January 1945

The Division continued to maintain defensive positions and completed relief of elements of the 82d Airborne Division and the 3d Armored Division.

Regimental Combat Team 329 completed relief of the 504th Parachute Infantry (82d Airborne Division) at 0415, when the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry, took over responsibility for the positions held by the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry, along a line from (P554919) to (P570925). At 1800, Company I, 329th Infantry, relieved the 36th Armored Regiment (3d Armored Division) in its positions on Hill at (P604923). Other elements of the 329th Infantry were engaged in strengthening and organizing the positions initially occupied on 3 January. Contact was maintained with the 291st Infantry (75th Infantry Division) on the right and with the 36th Armored Regiment on the left.

The 330th Infantry continued to be attached to the 3d Armored Division.

Regimental Combat Team 331 remained in assembly areas and continued rehabilitation.

Division Artillery's Command Post opened at 1000 vicinity (P531948). Due to snow and very poor visibility during the day no firing was done. Units of the 308th Engineer Battalion applied sand and gravel along roads in the Division sector. The 774th Tank Battalion and the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop remained in Division Reserve.

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5 January 1945

Operations Memorandum Number 144, VII Corps, dated 4 January was received (see Item 245, G3 Journal, 5 January 1945) confirming oral instructions for relief of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was completed on 4 January. The Operations Memorandum also stated that the Division would complete present mission as set forth in Field Order Number 14, VII Corps, 2 January.

Regimental Combat Team 329 made no contact with the enemy during the day. The 2d Battalion on the right flank of the regimental sector, remained in positions from P553920 to P566920 with Company E on the right, Company G in the center and Company F on the left. Positions from P565925 to P580930 were occupied by the 1st Battalion with Company A on the left, Company C on the right and Company B in regimental reserve vicinity of BRA (P575935). Company I, 3d Battalion, occupied a position vicinity P605913. Company K was assembled vicinity P538938 and Company L, vicinity BRA. During the period contact points were maintained with elements of the 82d Airborne Division on the left and with Company C, 291st Infantry on the right.

Regimental Combat Team 331 remained in position in assembly area previously occupied. The 3d Battalion was alerted to relieve Combat Command "R", 3d Armored Division at the crossroad (P577853) when that point in the advance was reached and preparations were made for reconnaissance and liaison with Combat Command "R".

The artillery was not able to register during the day and a program of harassing and interdiction fire was conducted during the night of 4-5 January. The 908th Field Artillery Battalion moved to new position vicinity P5491 at 1515. Other battalions remained in positions occupied initially on 4 January: 322d Field Artillery Battalion P555961; 323d Field Artillery Battalion P558957; 324th Field Artillery Battalion P524905.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved to a new position and opened its Command Post at 1030 in BRA (P575935). The 774th Tank Battalion (minus), the 308th Engineer Battalion (minus) and the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop remained in Division Reserve. Engineer companies continued sending roads in the Division sector.

6 January 1945

Both Regimental Combat Teams in the Division remained in positions throughout the day; Regimental Combat Team 329 in defensive positions on the line and Regimental Combat Team 331 in assembly area. The 429th Quartermaster Truck Company was detached from the 329th Infantry (Regimental Combat Team 329) and used by the 75th Infantry Division.

Field Artillery units fired harassing and interdiction missions in support of the operations of the 3d Armored Division, on 83d Division left flank. A number of changes were made in the locations of artillery units. The Division Artillery Command Post moved to P533954, opening at 1530. The 322d Field Artillery Battalion closed in new area at 1000 vicinity P574937; the 323d Field Artillery Battalion closed in new area P566916 at 1015. The Command Post of the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) moved to P538950, where it opened at 1445.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved from BRA to a new position (X528010), opening at 1500.

Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, removed minefields at three points in area occupied by Regimental Combat Team 329. Company B and Company C continued to send roads and to stockpile gravel. Changes were made in Route C and proper markings and signs posted to indicate the change for all traffic directed by that route.

Rehabilitation of troops and maintenance of equipment continued throughout the Division in all units not actually engaged.

7 January 1945

The Division received Operations Memorandum Number 146, VII Corps, dated 6 January 1945 (see Item 360, G-3 Journal, 7 January 1945) directing that present mission be continued. It further ordered the 83d Division to prepare to attack through elements of 3d Armored Division on Corps order; to initially seize a bridgehead across RONCE-BAU in vicinity of the town of LANGLIR (Pb482); secure the high ground North and West of BOVIGNY (P7082); secure a line running from MONT-LE-BAN (Pb478) to AU TILLEUT (Pb679) to BOVIGNY (P7082).

Division Field Order Number 44 (see Item 382, G-3 Journal, 7 January 1945) was issued at 1000 ordering the movement and giving the objectives for carrying out the assigned missions. Later in the day the 330th Inf (minus 2d and 3d Battalions) reverted to Division control, and at 2300 an amendment to Field Order Number 44 was issued ordering the 330th Infantry to seize and secure the town of BETHAIN (Pb284). (See Item 428, G-3 Journal, 7 January 1945).

The 329th Infantry remained in position, the companies assembling generally in the vicinity of the Battalion Command Posts. Company K moved to vicinity of HIERLOT (Pb192). The Reconnaissance Platoon, 774th Tank Battalion, was detached from the regiment.

The 331st Infantry remained in positions and made no changes in the location of any of the troops.

Artillery units moved during the day and the Division Artillery Command Post opened at 1600 at JEVIGNE (P5990). The 322d Field Artillery Battalion closed at 1430 vicinity Pb22893; 323d Field Artillery Battalion vicinity Pb04902 at 1800; 908th Field Artillery Battalion at 1815, vicinity Pb02896; and 324th Field Artillery Battalion vicinity Pb14921, at 2000.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved to new location in REGNE (Pb185), closing in at 1930. Engineer units of the Division worked on roads throughout the area and swept the area occupied by the 308th Medical Battalion for mines.

8 January 1945

The 329th Infantry moved to new locations, Regimental Command Post opening in LIERNEUX (Pb18891) at 1520. The 1st Battalion assembled vicinity BRA (P575935); the 2d Battalion vicinity Pb23897, closing in at 1000. The 3d Battalion moved into an area vicinity of the following three towns; SART (Pb53874), JOUBIEVAL (Pb55863) and VERLEMONT (Pb287), closing in at 1000.

The 330th Infantry (minus 2d and 3d Battalions) moved to LANSIVAL (Pb04903), where the Regimental Command Post opened at 1100. The 1st Battalion moved into the same area, closing in at 1530.

The 331st Infantry moved into the town of LIERNEUX (Pb18891) and opened the Regimental Command Post at 1200. The 2d Battalion moved to vicinity VERLEMONT (Pb287) at 2130 and the 3d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of the Regimental Command Post at 1600.

Field Artillery units were not able to register during the period, because of poor visibility.

The 33d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was attached, in addition, to the 330th Infantry. Engineer units were engaged in road maintenance and clearing of snow from the supply routes.

The Division Command Post moved from IZIER (K470005) and opened at 1315 in the town of JEVIGNE (P597903). All elements of the Division made preparations for the coming attack on the morning of 9 January.

9 January 1945.

The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry was the first unit of the Division to attack, crossing the Line of Departure at 1130, and advancing to hold positions along a line P653843 to P656842 to P656844 to P660845 to P662842 to P664842. After detrucking at SART (P6587), the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry moved out across their Line of Departure at 1215, advancing in the face of enemy small arms and machine gun fire to a line P668846 to P674843 to P679849. The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, after moving during the morning from previous location, closed into an assembly area at 1300 in the vicinity of P618890 and remained in Division Reserve at that point.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry (83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached), moved by motor to REGNE (P600856), where troops detrucked and proceeded on foot to an assembly area vicinity of HEERONVAL (P6386), closing in at 0800. From that point Company B moved South toward the quarries (P626847), where contact was made with the enemy at 0855. The Company advanced to hold positions along a line P622849 to P624847 to P628843 and were ordered to remain there. At 1140 the remaining units of the 1st Battalion launched an attack toward the Southeast, with Company C leading. Progress was made against heavy small arms fire and light mortar and artillery fire, and a line was established running through positions at P622839 to P627839, including the town of BIHAIN (P625840), which was entered.

The 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry launched an attack at 1330 after a short delay due to unfavorable weather and traffic conditions. Progress was made against strong resistance from enemy tanks and direct fire from anti-aircraft guns, and a line was established from P645842 to P651843. The 3d Battalion remained in reserve area vicinity of OTTRE (P646851, and the 1st Battalion, in Division Reserve, closed into LIERNEUX (P618890) at 1325.

Division Artillery was able to register at 1115 for the first time since moving into the present area, and fired more than eighty missions during the period, chiefly interdiction and harassing fire.

In addition to continued work on roads and road clearance, which all units of the 308th Engineer Battalion were engaged in, Company A in support of the 329th Infantry, made preparations for building a bridge across the RAU DE LANGLIR at P651834.

10 January 1945

The Division continued its attack to the South against very strong opposition at many points

The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry attacked at 0830, advancing in the face of heavy artillery fire and tank action. The battalion advanced to the line P653841-P654843-P658840. The 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry attacked in column of companies with Company E leading, at 0800. Enemy tank and artillery resistance was very heavy. At 1115 Company E crossed the RONCE River and attacked East to reduce the enemy strong point at P664838 and to capture the town of PETITE LANGLIR. At the end of the day a line was secured as follows:

P661837-P663831-P673834-P673845. The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry was released from Division control at 1600 and began move to vicinity P670845.

→ The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry, with the 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop attached, moved out after daylight and Company B was given the mission of clearing the woods at P635-847. This was accomplished by 1030 at which time the Company assembled and took up positions vicinity P631848. Later Companies A and B began clearing the town of BIHAIN (P624839). The town was cleared at 1830. With the battalion fighting from house to house, in the face of heavy machine gun cross fire from the woods South of the town, as well as small arms and mortar fire coming from enemy within the town. The Regimental Command Post of the 330th Infantry opened at 1600 at HEBRONVAL (P631860).

Advancing against small arms, mortar and heavy artillery fire and tank action, the 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry attacked to the South at 1700. An enemy counterattack was stopped at 1210, after which the battalion advanced to hold a line from P639846 to P645845. Also at 1700 the 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry attacked to the South, meeting small arms fire and opposition from tanks and heavy artillery. An enemy strong point at P645845 held up the attack, whereupon a coordinated tank and infantry attack was organized to reduce it. Tanks attacked down the road from the Northwest and Company L took up a position flanking the enemy from the Northeast. One enemy tank and two of our own were knocked out during this fight. The battalion held positions along a line P647844-P650843-P653844 at the close of the period.

Division Artillery, using all organic and supporting battalions from the 3d Armored Division, fired 15 TOTs during the day on targets designated by the advancing infantry units, thirteen battalions of artillery firing at one time. Extensive harassing and interdiction fire was maintained during the hours of darkness. The total number of missions fired was two hundred.

Units of the 774th Tank Battalion, operating with the regiments, assisted in reducing enemy strong points and neutralizing enemy armor. The 308th Engineers continued work on roads, in addition to mine sweeping in the forward areas. Company A, with the 329th Infantry, improvised a foot crossing of the RONCE River at P670834. Company B assisted Division Artillery personnel in clearing a field of snow and sweeping it for mines, preparatory to its use as an airfield.

During the day a total of 140 prisoners were taken.

11 January 1945

During daylight hours small advances were made against strong enemy opposition. The enemy launched a strong counterattack at BIHAIN (P624839) early in the day. This threat was repelled primarily by artillery fire and positions were maintained. Coordinated attacks at 2200 and 0120, 12 January were launched by the Division. These attacks were progressing successfully during the night 11-12 January.

Moving South from GRANDSART (P657877), the 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry reached forward positions at 0800. At 1130 the RONCE River was crossed and the advance continued South and East to block the enemy along a line P670845-P670836-P664828. The attack of the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry was launched at 0930 against strong opposition from enemy tanks, artillery and small arms fire. The condition of the ground, which was covered with deep, drifted snow, slowed progress to some extent, and the battalion held its positions preparatory to making a coordinated night attack. This attack was launched at 2200, the 2d Battalion jumping off from a line P660837-P660835-P653834-P654829-P654826 with the mission

of taking LANGLIR (Pb53827) from the East. By 2400 the Battalion had reached a line in the town from Pb53833 to Pb52827 and were still fighting on the edge of town. An attack made by Company I, 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry at 0900, heading South from positions previously held, was stopped by enemy tank fire in the vicinity of PETITE LANGLIR (Pb53837). At 2200 the battalion again attacked to the South, in coordination with other elements of the Division, jumping off from a line Pb44844-Pb49845-Pb53844 to take PETITE LANGLIR.

The 330th Infantry (minus 2d and 3d Battalions) passed from Division control at 0800, operating entirely under control of the 3d Armored Division. The Divisional units attached to the regiment reverted to Division control at the same time.

The 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry moved out at 0700 to assemble in forward area North of BIHAIN (Pb24839), preparatory to attack on LANGLIR (Pb51827). At 1015 the attack jumped off and after considerable heavy fighting secured a line running along the edge of woods Pb37830-Pb41833-Pb43837. The Division launched a coordinated attack at 2200 with the 1st Battalion attacking Southeast to capture LANGLIR (Pb53827). The 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry attacked at 0120 from the line Pb39845-Pb46845. At 0415 Company E attacked through woods Pb35843 to clear out enemy in that sector. At 0900 the enemy made a determined counterattack with five tanks and supporting infantry to recover BIHAIN. This effort was decisively repulsed after three enemy tanks were knocked out and the other two withdrew, and the battalion moved on to complete its mission and block along a line Pb28833-Pb34827. This line was reached at 1100. At 2100 the battalion seized the road junction at Pb37820 and continued to attack South. Later the battalion took up blocking positions along a line from the road junction Northwest to the LANGLIR River at Pb33827. An enemy strong point at Pb46845 delayed the attack of the 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry until the artillery was able to reduce it in the afternoon. Later in the day the battalion formed a line Pb44844-Pb49845-Pb53844, from which it jumped off in a coordinated attack at 2200, advancing to the edge of PETITE LANGLIR (Pb52836-Pb53839) by the end of the period at 2400. The 33d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 331st Infantry.

Two hundred and twenty-seven missions were fired by Divisional and other artillery units during the day. Fifty TOTs were fired, using at one time sixteen battalions, firing 105mm guns, 155mm howitzers, 155mm guns and 240mm howitzers. Field Artillery Battalions of the 3d Armored Division Artillery, 18th Field Artillery Group and VII Corps Artillery supported the 83d Division Artillery in firing these concentrations. At 1200 the 322d Field Artillery Battalion opened a new command post at Pb58878, and at 1615 the 908th Field Artillery Battalion opened a new one at Pb36862. Five tanks of the 774th Tank Battalion were knocked out during the attacks toward PETITE LANGLIR and Southeast of OTTRE (Pb45850). A total of 160 prisoners were taken during the day's operations.

12 January 1945

Just before the close of the previous period the Division launched a coordinated attack against LANGLIR (Pb50826) and PETITE LANGLIR (Pb52837), and the forward elements had crossed their line of departure as the period began.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry was in position blocking to the South and East along a line Pb44823-Pb47836-Pb70845. Company C advanced to hold positions vicinity of road block at Pb71823 at 1030 and maintained that position during the balance of the period. The 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry, Companies E and G in advance, were attacking LANGLIR (Pb50826) from the West as the period opened. The two leading companies entered the town in the morning and mopping up operations continued. At 1400 the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry relieved the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry in the Western end of town, and

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after strengthening these positions, maintained defenses in L. GLIR throughout the remainder of the day. The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry continued its attack against PETITE LANGLIR (Pb52837), moving down from the North side of the town. Heavy fire from enemy machine guns and tanks was received from the area vicinity Pb54837 but the battalion advanced slowly, and by 1330 was inside the town engaged in mopping-up operations. At close of period the battalion remained in the town.

Attacking from the North toward LANGLIR (Pb50826), the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry advanced very slowly against stubborn infantry troops supported by enemy tanks and heavy artillery. At 1100 advance had reached the outskirts of the town where enemy fire was received from ten tanks vicinity Pb40820. The 1st Battalion was relieved at 1400 by the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry and soon thereafter attacked to the South toward its next objective at Pb47803. From the line Pb28833-Pb34822, held by the 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry, Company F advanced against heavy fire from machine guns, self-propelled guns and extended the line to Pb37818. At 1300 the battalion launched an attack toward the Southeast, formed in a column of companies, and by the close of the period had advanced to Pb36814. The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry attacked PETITE LANGLIR (Pb52837) at the beginning of the period and in the face of heavy resistance from machine guns, artillery and tank fires, succeeded in entering the town. Following mopping-up operations during the morning, the 3d Battalion reorganized and at 1400 attacked to the Southeast. By the close of the period the 3d Battalion had advanced to the line Pb54815-Pb56817.

Artillery units fired one hundred missions during the period on different targets called for by the forward observers with the advancing infantry units, as well as by the artillery air observers.

The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, attached to the 331st Infantry, maintained flank security of the right flank of the regiment, and secured the cross roads at Pb30818. Units of the 308th Engineer Battalion continued road maintenance; Company C supporting the 331st Infantry, in addition to mine sweeping on the roads of the advance, improved the ford across the RAV DE LANGLIR at Pb32827.

By the end of the period the Division was able to establish a bridgehead South of the LANGLIR River and secure the town of LANGLIR and PETITE LANGLIR. In addition, routes were cleared to continue the attack further to the South and East. A total of 175 prisoners were taken during the day's operations.

13 January 1945

At the beginning of the period the Division held positions generally along the Eastern edge of the bridgehead established South of the RONCE River and continued the attack to the South to secure exits from the woods from which the 3d Armored Division might debouch.

The 3d Armored Division attacked through the positions held by the 83d Division generally from P640808-647806-662308 at 0800 and advanced South against very strong resistance.

Following the receipt of oral instructions by telephone, operations memorandum #150, VII Corps, dated 12 January 1945 (see Item 465, G-3 Journal, 13 January 1945) was received which ordered the Division to attack to the East and secure the high ground Northwest of BOVIGNY (P7082). Division Field Order #45 was issued as of 1100, 13 January (see Item 508, G-3 Journal, 13 January 1945), confirming oral instructions of the Commanding General.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry continued to block the line P664828-667836-670836-670845 and to patrol the area to its front toward the East. Company I, 329th Infantry relieved Company A at 1530 and Company A assembled in area West of the positions held by Company C vicinity of P666826. At the close of the period the 1st Battalion maintained defensive line P671823-673837. During the movement of Company F, 329th Infantry to the Southeast from LANGLIR (P650826), at the start of the period, enemy was encountered. A fire fight resulted and fifty prisoners were taken. At 0545 Company F reached its objective vicinity P665814 and maintained it until 1830, when Company L, 331st Infantry completed relief at that point. Company F rejoined the 2d Battalion, 329th Infantry in assembly area at LANGLIR. The 3d Battalion, 329th Infantry remained in reserve in PETITE LANGLIR (P652837). At 1530, Company I relieved Company A, 331st Infantry along the line P670839-670845, and maintained the position until approximately 1830 when relieved by Company G, 329th Infantry. Company I then returned to PETITE LANGLIR.

In the 331st Infantry sector the 1st Battalion continued the attack at the opening of the period, advancing South from LANGLIR to reach a position vicinity P647810. Enemy tanks and infantry offered very heavy resistance. The progress was further slowed by the woods, darkness and the difficulty in bringing up supporting weapons. Company B was on the forward slope of the battalion objective at 0700. Positions were maintained by the battalion throughout the day under heavy enemy artillery fire. At 2130 the battalion moved to LANGLIR (P650826) and remained there at the close of the period. The 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry was attacking in a column of companies at the close of the previous period, moving South from P636814, with Company E in the lead. Enemy infantry and tanks dug-in were encountered at P635814, but a slow advance continued and the head of the column was on the objective (P638855) at 0440. At 1300 a number of enemy tanks, which had been by-passed during the night advance, began to infiltrate among elements of Company E. Tanks from supporting units of the 774th Tank Battalion moved forward and engaged the enemy armor, knocking out one Mark V and losing one of our own tanks in the course of the action. Defensive positions were maintained by the battalion until 2130, at which time Company F moved to BIHAIN (P624840) and Companies E and G moved to OTTE (P645850). The battalion remained in this location at the close of the period. The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry maintained defensive positions in the vicinity of the objective taken on the previous day (P660810). Heavy enemy artillery fire was received throughout the period. At 1700 the 3d Battalion began moving to the Northeast for relief of units of the 329th Infantry. At the close of the period the 3d Battalion held the line P664813-668818-665824.

Artillery units of the Division fired more than one hundred missions during the day and knocked out one tank. The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) claimed one Mark VI tank, making a total of four enemy tanks knocked out during the day in the Division sector. Engineer units worked on roads and minefields, and Company A, 308th Engineer Battalion, supporting the 329th Infantry, constructed a treadway bridge at P652834. One hundred and fifty prisoners were captured by the Division during the attack.

14 January 1945

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry attacked at 1000 clearing the enemy in its advance to the East. Resistance was not heavy and consisted chiefly of small groups of enemy armed with automatic weapons protecting trail intersections. Progress was further slowed down because the weather and terrain prevented our use of light tanks. The high ground Northwest of BOVIGNY (P703822), which constituted the objective of the 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry, was captured at 1630. Company B captured the town of HONYLEZ (P703833) at 2130. Company C patrolled to the East as far as BOVIGNY. Company A was assembled vicinity P684825 in battalion reserve. The 2d Battalion also attacked at 1000 toward the East in its sector and met the same type of resistance that was encountered by the 1st Battalion. Company G, moving South, crossed the LANCELIR River at 1200, and at 2130 entered the town of HONYLEZ with Company B. The 3d Battalion was in PETITE LANCELIR (P652837) in regimental reserve throughout the period. The regimental command post moved and opened in its new location vicinity PETITE LANCELIR at 1700.

In the sector of the 331st Infantry the 1st Battalion, attacking in a column of companies toward the East from LANCELIR, crossed the Line of Departure at 1000. Company B was in the lead. A strong point was encountered at P680820 and was knocked out after a fight in which twenty prisoners were captured and an undetermined number of enemy killed. The line P687813-688817-689822, which was the battalion objective, was occupied at approximately 1630, and the battalion patrolled East from those positions to the town of COURTIL (P7081). The 2d Battalion was in regimental reserve vicinity LANCELIR. Also attacking to the East at 1000, the 3d Battalion reached its objective at 1730. An enemy high velocity gun vicinity P688803 was forced to withdraw from its position after Company F outflanked it from the South. Positions were held along the line P688803-685807-68881.

15 January 1945

At 2300 a fragmentary order confirming oral orders issued by the Commanding General during the day (see item 154, @G-3 Journal, 16 January 1945) was issued by the Division ordering units to maintain positions already held and to attack BOVIGNY 15 January on Division Order.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry attacked BOVIGNY (P703822) at 1400, with Company advancing on the town from the South, vicinity HONYLEZ (P703833), and Companies A and C moving out from the woods along a line P689825-691830. The enemy pinned down Companies A and C along the edge of the woods, so they were unable to advance further. Company B reached the North edge of the town but at 1630 received a strong counterattack, accompanied by heavy machine gun, mortar, 20mm anti-aircraft and tank fire, and were forced to withdraw as far as the Eastern edge of the woods. After reorganizing at that point, Company B reoccupied its previous positions in HONYLEZ. Company E, 329th Infantry sent patrols to the Northeast and by 1600 had reached its objective (P702844). Contact was made with elements of the 289th Infantry, 75th Infantry Division at the bridge vicinity P703850. At 1200 Company F moved into HONYLEZ, and Company G remained in the town throughout the period. The 3d Battalion, constituting regimental reserve, closed into an assembly area at 0930 vicinity P681832.

The 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry maintained defensive positions throughout the day along the line Pb89811-b89823. The 2d Battalion was in regimental reserve and closed in an assembly area vicinity Pb84822 at 1500. The 3d Battalion maintained defensive positions previously held and sent patrols to the East. The town of COURTEL (P7081) was occupied and strongly defended by the enemy. As the period closed the 3d Battalion occupied positions along the line Pb88303-Pb8580b and maintained a road block at Pb89803. The regimental command post moved and opened vicinity of L'ANGLIER (Pb51830) at 1700.

Artillery units fired one hundred and twenty-five missions during the day on targets designated by advance infantry units and air observers. The Division Artillery command post moved and opened in new location OTTRE (Pb485) at 1430.

Four enemy machine guns were knocked out by Company D, 774th Tank Battalion attached to the 329th Infantry.

The Division Command Post moved to OTTRE, opening at 1400.

16 January 1945

At 2300 the Division issued a fragmentary order (see item 215, G-3 Journal, 17 January 1945) confirming oral orders of the Commanding General, ordering units to hold present positions and to attack on 17 January to take high ground vicinity P700802. The Division held positions along the East edge of BOIS DE RONCE throughout the day. Three attempts by the enemy to launch counterattacks were repelled by effective use of our artillery.

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry remained in same positions with the exception of Company C, which side-slipped to the left and took up a position along the line Pb92831-b95835. Company A was in assembly area vicinity Pb88833, and Company B remained in HONYELEZ (P703833). The 2d Battalion, less Company G, likewise remained in HONYELEZ, Company E maintaining contact with the 289th Infantry, 75th Infantry Division at bridge (P701850). Company I moved from 3d Battalion assembly area to occupy positions along a line Pb89811-b90828, the other companies remained in regimental reserve vicinity Pb81832.

In the 331st Infantry sector, the 1st Battalion, less Company C, occupied a line Pb89811-b89823; Company C was in position from Pb86805-b86807. The 2d Battalion moved from its assembly area at 1515 to occupy line Pb80792-b83800. The 3d Battalion strengthened its positions and remained generally along the same line as the previous day.

The 324th Field Artillery Battalion moved to a new position area vicinity Pb00889 at 1100. In addition to firing one hundred and twenty missions during the day, artillery units scored at least two direct hits on enemy tanks and forced a concentration of enemy armor to disperse into woods vicinity COURTEL (P700812). The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the 331st Infantry and patrolled the road between COURTEL and PONCAY (Pb72800), maintaining contact with the 3d Armored Division on their right. The 774th Tank Battalion destroyed two enemy vehicles. Engineer units maintained roads and cleared trails for infantry units operating in thickly wooded areas.

17 January 1945

The 3d Battalion, 331st Infantry reduced an enemy strong point vicinity Pb38804, later clearing the woods from that point South to the main road. At 1200 the 1st and 2d Battalions attacked against strong enemy resistance. Two hours later the enemy launched a counterattack with ten tanks and an infantry company, moving Southeast from Pb93805. Three of the tanks were knocked out by an artillery TOT, and the infantry company was destroyed. The remainder of the tanks withdrew toward COURTEL (P700812). At the close of the period the 1st Battalion occupied positions along a line Pb30797-696802, and the 2d Battalion, having secured its initial objective at 1800, maintained positions along the line Pb83798-688793-689796. At 1800 elements of the 2d Battalion, 331st Infantry captured an extensive enemy supply dump vicinity Pb85798, but due to the exposed location and the likelihood of numerous booby traps, a complete inspection of it was not made. Contact was maintained by the 331st Infantry with the 3d Armored Division on the South flank, and the regiment established and held two road blocks at Pb83799 and Pb88803.

The 329th Infantry remained in place during the period, patrolling to the Southeast without meeting enemy resistance in the first two to four hundred yards. Company A relieved Company I at 0600. Company B moved out from vicinity of HONYLEZ to a position vicinity Pb92829. Company E maintained contact with 289th Infantry, 75th Infantry Division on left flank at bridge at P701850. The 3d Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry at 0755. Road blocks were established by the 329th Infantry at Pb91823, Pb91828, Pb90827, Pb89828 and Pb90815.

One hundred and fifty missions were fired by artillery units of the Division and supporting battalions. Three enemy tanks were destroyed by TOT at the time of counterattack, and the concentration of enemy armor was fired upon again after the remaining tanks withdrew into COURTEL. The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) assisted in dispersing the vehicles assembled by the enemy for his counterattack, and during the period succeeded in reducing enemy strong points and neutralizing machine gun positions, hampering the infantry. Two enemy tanks and one half-track vehicle were also destroyed by tank destroyer fire, and numerous casualties were inflicted on the personnel of the crews.

18 January 1945

The 329th Infantry made no attack during the day. The 1st Battalion maintained its defensive positions and road blocks at the following points; Pb90824, Pb90327 and Pb89815. The 2d Battalion made physical contact with the 75th Infantry Division on the left, and strengthened its positions. The 3d Battalion sent patrols out from positions maintained on previous day East toward BOVIGNY (P704823) and COURTEL (P700812). Both towns were found to be occupied by enemy forces.

The 331st Infantry attacked and made slight gains. The 1st Battalion sent patrols to its front at 0700 and at 0900 launched an attack against light enemy resistance through snow-covered, wooded terrain. Three enemy tanks in the vicinity of P705797 laid heavy, direct fire on the battalion at about 1900. At the close of the period the battalion was holding along a line P703793-703797-701799-700800-700803-689802. At 0900 the 2d Battalion also attacked, Company G moving South to clear the wooded area as far as the Division boundary, and Company E moving to the East to cover the rear and the right flank of the sector in which the 1st Battalion was simultaneously attacking.

SECRET

Light resistance was met during the period. The 2d Battalion was holding a line through P689793-687793-682798 at the close of the period. The 3d Battalion protected the sector of the 1st Battalion, remaining in its previous positions. In the woods occupied by the troops in the forward positions the drifted snow made trails impassable for trucks or tanks. Food and ammunition were taken forward on foot by carrying parties. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued as an attachment of the 331st Infantry, and maintained contact with the 3d Armored Division on the right flank.

Eighty-eight missions were fired by artillery units in the course of the period, chiefly interdiction and harassing fire. Units of the 774th Tank Battalion helped the infantry units in flushing enemy personnel from positions in the BOIS DE RONCE. Engineer units supporting the regiments worked on road maintenance and snow clearance, and kept open trails for communication with the 1st and 2d Battalions, 331st Infantry during their advance.

19 January 1945

The Division received Operations Memo 152, VII Corps, dated 18 January 1945 (see Item 375, G-3 Journal, 19 January 1945), which stated the Division's mission as securing its present positions on the high ground North and West of BOVIGNY (P7082), and the high ground South of COURTEL (P7081) in the Division zone. It was also directed that the 330th Infantry would be relieved from its attachment to the 3d Armored Division and would revert to the control of the 83d Division at 0800, 19 January 1945.

In the sector of the 329th Infantry, the 1st Battalion maintained its positions and patrolled from the East edge of BOIS DE RONCE to BOVIGNY (P704822). Company A closed into BOVIGNY at 1600, and at the close of the period Companies B and C were along the line P688824-P695835. The 2d Battalion maintained its positions throughout the day. At 1700 Company E moved into HONYELES (P703833), except for one platoon which remained in vicinity of the contact point with 75th Infantry Division (P703849). Company F moved into LONGCHAMPS (P707824) at 2015. The 3d Battalion likewise maintained its positions during most of the period along the line P701802-P698802. Company L occupied the town of COURTEL (P700812) at 2000. At 1200 Company K, reinforced, began movement for attachment to the 331st Infantry.

The 330th Infantry reverted to Division control at 0800 by Corps order and began movement to assembly area in the vicinity of IZIER (K467006) and THIER-DE-FERRIERES (K487016), where the 2d Battalion and the Cannon Company closed at 1900.

After advancing to line along edge of woods the 1st Battalion, 331st Infantry maintained positions along a line P704795-704798-704802 until 1500, when Company K, 329th Infantry, reinforced, effected relief. The battalion thereupon moved to assembly area in LANELIR (P650825). Company G moved to P704795; with this exception the 2d and 3d Battalions remained in positions throughout the period.

Artillery units fired seventy-two missions of harassing and interdiction fire, and twenty-one other missions. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop continued to maintain contact with the 3d Armored Division at P689793. The 308th Engineer Battalion prepared a road reconnaissance study which was distributed to the units of the Division. In addition, the various companies assisted the regiments in constructing command posts and in road clearance and maintenance, and in the recording of mine fields.

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At the close of the period plans were in hand for issuing Field Order Number 46, giving the instructions necessary to move the Division into assigned assembly area in the rear of the Corps sector, as relieved (see Item 199, G-3 Journal, 20 January 1945). (Field Order 46 was issued 2300, 19 January, in confirmation of oral orders of the Commanding General).

20 January 1945

The 1st Battalion, 329th Infantry closed into BOVIGNY (P703822) at 1600, and maintained positions and road blocks at P693331 and P693827. The 2d Battalion patrolled East to CIERREUX (P713843) and at the close of the period one platoon occupied the town. Company E, minus one platoon, closed into HONYELEZ (P703833) and occupied the town with Company G at the close of the period. The 3d Battalion, minus Company K, occupied COURTIL (P700812) at the end of the period. Company K, reinforced, was relieved, moved to the vicinity of P683806, and was attached to the 331st Infantry. Road blocks were maintained by the 3d Battalion throughout the period at P690804, P687807 and P687817. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon patrolled to the East as far as CIERREUX (P713843), and East of BOVIGNY (P703822) contacting the enemy at P716826).

The 330th Infantry continued rehabilitation and training in its previous positions.

The 331st Infantry was relieved and moved to new areas during the day. The regimental command post opened at 1600 at P481931. The 1st Battalion crossed the Initial Point for its march at 1130 and closed into assembly area in AISNE (P456975) at 1430. The 2d Battalion was relieved by elements of the 335th Infantry and crossed its Initial Point at 1730. The battalion closed in vicinity DEUX-PYS (P487958) at 2000. The 3d Battalion was also relieved by elements of the 335th Infantry and moved to assembly area vicinity FAYS (P505974) at 1800.

Artillery missions fired during the period totaled sixty-six. Company A, 774th Tank Battalion, attached to the 329th Infantry, held positions in preparation for defense of BOVIGNY and HONYELEZ. The 83d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, after moving into assembly area near XHIGNESSE (K4406), reverted to Division control upon arrival. The engineer units worked on snow clearance and Company B, 308th Engineer Battalion removed tanks, our own and enemy, from road in vicinity of P700553.

21 January 1945

At 1200 the 329th Infantry, with its attachments, passed to control of the 64th Infantry Division in position.

The 1st Battalion, 330th Infantry moved to HEYD (P454964), closing in at 1200. The remainder of the period was devoted to rehabilitation. The 3d Battalion moved into FLIOT (K460052), closing in at 1030. The 2d Battalion made no change during the period.

The 331st Infantry remained in place and devoted the period to training and rehabilitation.

Forty-seven artillery missions were fired during the day. The 774th Tank Battalion in Division Reserve opened new command post at 1845 at K383019. The 308th Engineer

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Battalion moved into new command post at K476043.

The Division was relieved of responsibility for its sector of the line at 1200 by elements of the 84th Infantry Division, and at that time the Division Command Post was closed at OTTRE (Pb45850) and opened at HAMOIR (K433055). A program of rehabilitation and training for the entire Division was inaugurated; the 330th and 331st Infantry Regiments started work on this program during the latter part of the day.

22 January 1945

The 329th Infantry reverted to Division control at 1400, and the regimental command post opened at 1345 at TOROGNE (K395003). The 330th Infantry conducted training in the firing of small arms, organization of units, close order drill and military courtesy. The 331st Infantry completed closing into new area. The 2d Battalion, minus Company E, closed in vicinity of CHERELLE (K527008) and Company E closed into HARRE (P523967), both at 1300. Division Artillery reverted to Division control at 1330, and opened new command post at WANZEL (P462933) at 1600. The 774th Tank Battalion moved into assembly area vicinity of LONGUEVILLE (K3301), with Battalion Command Post at K383019. The 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) opened new command post at DEUX-EYS (K486958) at 1530.

At 1600 a fragmentary order was issued instructing units in provisions for area security (see Item 57, G-3 Journal, 22 January 1945).

23 January 1945

The Division continued to follow a program of training and rehabilitation. Clothing and equipment were inspected, and the regiments laid out ranges for firing small arms, training in village firing and unit problems of various kinds. Operations Memo 155, VII Corps, dated 23 January, was received (see Item 73, G-3 Journal, 23 January 1945). No change was ordered in the mission of the Division, but the Memo confirmed the return to Division control of 83d Division Artillery as of 1330 on 22 January.

24 through 31 January 1945

During this period the units of the Division continued training and general rehabilitation of troops. Emphasis was placed on having troops, especially all reinforcements, fire their basic weapon plus one alternate weapon, and, under varied conditions, simulate actual combat; Marching fire, village and woods fighting, the use of captured weapons, etc..

One change in location of units occurred when the S3d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop moved from KHIGNESSE to COMPLAIN-TAIBON (K442076) on 25 January 1945. At 2400, 25 January Companies B and C, 57th Chemical Battalion were detached from the Division; and at 0600, 30 January the 629th Tank Destroyer Battalion (self-propelled) was detached from the Division.